REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 21-51 are pending in the application. Claims 21-51 have been rejected. Claims 21, 29, 33 and 34 have been amended.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 21-25 and 29-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Selgas et al. (US6,571,290). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the remarks that follow.

Selgas et al. describes the process of connecting a user to the Internet (c.f. col 5, line 45-57), whereas Shaked et al. deals with retrieving real-world indentifications for users already connected to the Internet, and then making use of the real world information to control access to Internet services (c.f. paragraph 0010).Regarding amended claim 21, the term "first identifier" refers to transient IDs supplied when a user connects to an anonymous network. This identifier does not reveal any persistent or real-world information about the user (c.f. paragraph). The term "second identifier" in amended claim 21 refers to real-world Identities which are, by nature, persistent. Usage of the word" session" in claim 21 indicates that in different sessions, the user may be assigned different IDs, making this ID transient.

For example, the "first identifier" may be the IP address assigned to the user whenever he/she connects to the Internet. Additionally, since the "first identifier" is anonymous, so to may the network be described as "anonymous", as in amended claim 21, and as described in the Shaked et al. Application in paragraph 0011.

Selgas et al. describes usage of a Password Authentication Protocol ID that is not user specific, as in amended claim 21 of Shaked et al., but rather ISP specific. Further, the second ID, the "PAP password for that ISP" (col 2 lines 23-24) described by is not a real-world ID, as in amended claim 21 of Shaked et al. and therefore does not contain any information which the service provider can a-priori use to derive information about the user. This is in contrast to the second identifier described in amended claim 21 of Shaked et al., which is real-world information that may be used, for example, to ascertain whether the user is an adult, as Shaked et al. do in paragraph 0045 and figure 2. Additionally, Selgas et al identifies the second identifier with the user's password, which will never be passed on to any Internet service providers for obvious security reasons. This password, in contrast to the "persistent real-world information" in amended claim 21 of Shaked et al., can not be used for the various uses that Shaked et al. do, as is described in paragraphs 0053, 0047, figure 5 and elsewhere.

Selgas et al. do not teach or suggest, and the Examiner does not suggest, usage of a "obtaining a first, transient identifier associated with a communication session of said user over an anonymous network" and "obtaining a second identifier associated with persistent real-world information of said user from a network access provider (NAP) ..." as recited in amended independent claim 21.

Regarding claim 25, Shaked et al. discloses a method by which, after a user has connected to the Internet, an ISP may notify the telephone network to divert calls by way of VoIP software. In contrast, Selgas et al. describes a sign-on process, which requires telephone network connections, which are of an entirely different nature (see col. 8, lines 32-54 and elsewhere).

Regarding amended independent claim 29, Shaked et al. describes a method of handling incoming telephone calls during a dial-up Internet connection, in contrast to Selgas et al. which do not describe or suggest such a method.

Regarding claim 32, Shaked et al. describes a method of handling incoming telephone calls while a user is online, and specifically of receiving messages on incoming calls, as per paragraph 0056. Selgas et al. do not describe or suggest such a method.

Regarding amended claims 33 and 34, Shaked et al. describes method of re-validating the real-world information. Claims 33 and 34 have been amended to depend from claim 21.

For a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach all elements of the claim. Therefore, Selgas et al. cannot anticipate claims 21 and 29 as amended, or claim 32 as previously stated. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that amended independent claims 21, 25, 29 and 32 are allowable. Claims 22-24, 30-31 and 33-34 depend from, directly or indirectly, claims 21, 25, 29 and 32, and therefore include all the limitations of those claims. Therefore, Applicants resepectfully assert that claims 22-24, 30-31 and 33-34 are likewise allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to amended independent claims 21 and 29, to previously stated independent claim 32, and to claims 22-24, 30-31 and 33-34 dependent thereon.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Banker et al. (US5,477,262). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the remarks that follow.

Banker et al deals with configuration of services in a cable-television" network" environment. The Banker et al. invention deals with providing an interface for provisioning (facilitating) the services over the cable network (col. 3 L9-15, col. 3 L9 and onward). In contrast, claim 26 of Shaked et al. deals with using account details from an anonymous network, such as the Internet, (c.f. paragraphs 0036-0038) to report the user as an adult, if the account details pertain only to users above a predetermined age.

Although both Banker et al. and Shaked et al. deal with configuration of adult services in networks, the networks used are very different. Whereas the Internet is a distributed anonymous network, the cable network is not anonymous, as each set-top box has a unique, persistent ID, which is known to the service provider – the cable operator (see the scrambler units with matching IDs, 104a-104f and col. 8 lines 62-63 "matching address" referring to the scrambler address). No such ID is known to the Internet service provider. Therefore, Banker

et al. do not describe or suggest household identification and accessibility of real-world information by the service provider.

For a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach all elements of the claim. Therefore, Banker et al. cannot anticipate claim 26. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that amended independent claim 26 is allowable. Claims 27-28 depend from, directly or indirectly, claim 26 and therefore include all the limitations of that claim. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 27-28 are likewise allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to amended independent claim 26, and to claims 27-28 dependent thereon.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 35-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Walker et al. (US5,949,875). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the remarks that follow.

Walker et al deals with online micro-payments according to the following processes:

1) Internet interaction:
   ☐ User wishes to access service/information for which the service provider wishes to charge (fig. 7 steps 700-715).
   ☐ User is presented with a session code, generated by the access management system (fig. 7 steps 730-755).
   ☐ User disconnects from data network (implied by fig 9, step 900).

2) Telephone-network interaction:
   ☐ User calls indicated 1-900 number (fig 8, step 800)
   ☐ User enters session code (fig 8, steps 805,810)
   ☐ Session code is verified by the access management system and session is activated (fig 8, steps 815,825).
   ☐ User is given confirmation and then disconnected (fig 8, steps 830,835).

3) Internet interaction:
   ☐ User logs in to the network, again (fig 9, step 900).
   ☐ User enters acquired authorization code (fig 9, step 900).
   ☐ Authorization code is validated with the authorization service (fig 9, steps 905-925)

- ☐ User is allowed access to information (fig 9, step 930).

- ☐ Billing information is sent to the LEC (Local Exchange Carrier – the telephone company) (fig 9, steps 935, 940, 945).

According to Walker et al, authorization of transactions is performed outside the data network, using the 1-900 number. Further identification of the user is done via the caller-ID mechanism of the telephone network (this is implied from the use of the 1-900 number and telephone exchange (LEC) to perform the billing, as col. 4 lines -112 and by claims 2 and 3). Additionally, charging is also executed by the LEC. Further, the process requires multiple, non-trivial steps by the user, including: Get a number online; Punch it into a 1-900 system; Get confirmation; and Re-access desired information. Such a series includes one or more non-trivial steps, and requires, for example, the availability of a telephone.

Shaked et al, as described in independent claim 35 uses a different approach to that of Walker et al. See in particular figure 6, steps of which are detailed in figures 5 and 7, as well as paragraphs 0069-0075 which provide an accompanying explanation. The Shaked et al approach, as described in claim 35 includes generating a first account identifier of a user account by a NAP; sending the first account identifier to a merchant; and the merchant sending a billing transaction to a billing entity which charges the user account for access to said NAP. Walker et al. do not describe or suggest executing user identification and transaction authorization online – within the confines of the data network.

Regarding independent claim 42, Shaked et al. describes usage of real-world information resultant from the automatic account identification process, to determine whether the user is an adult, and may therefore be presented with adult-oriented content. The Shaked et al. process is described in detail in figure 2 and paragraphs 0045-0051.

In contrast, Walker et al. do not mention nor suggest any process or step relating to age verification. Moreover, Walker et al. do not suggest usage of automatic account identification and usage of the resultant real-world information necessary to make such a determination in an automatic fashion .

Regarding independent claim 46, Shaked et al. describes automatic user identification and account information flow, such that there is no need for an external 1-900 telephone or

other user intervention. Walker et al. do not describe or suggest such a method of user identification.

Regarding independent claim 49, Shaked et al. describes a system for enabling automatic user identification and account information flow, such that there is no need for an external 1-900 telephone or other user intervention. Walker et al. do not describe or suggest a system for enabling such user identification.

For a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach all elements of the claim. Therefore, Walker et al. cannot anticipate independent claims 35, 42, 46 and 49. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that independent claims 35, 42, 46 and 49 are allowable. Claims 36-41, 43-45, 47-48 and 50-51 depend from, directly or indirectly, claims 35, 42, 46 and 49 and therefore include all the limitations of those claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 36-41, 43-45, 47-48 and 50-51 are likewise allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to amended independent claims 35, 42, 46 and 49 and to claims 36-41, 43-45, 47-48 and 50-51 dependent thereon.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 21-51.
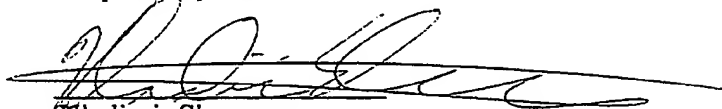
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

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Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3400.

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